

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
June 28, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Secretary Larry Lazaroff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, and Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Jonathan Mulhern

Absent: Chairman Joseph D'Errico and Vice Chairman David Monz.

Commissioner Lazaroff expressed well wishes to Chairman Joseph D'Errico who is recovering from a medical procedure. Commissioner Lazaroff wished him a complete and prompt recovery. Also, Mr. Lazaroff stated that Co-Chairman David Monz is not able to make the meeting tonight therefore he will be running this month's meeting.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the May 18, 2016 special meeting, both regular and Executive sessions.

Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Spader seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for May 2016.

The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Calafiore; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A letter of Thanks was received from a resident who wanted to acknowledge the professionalism of Officer Lee Capozzo whom she witnessed assist a motorist who was involved in a motor vehicle accident. The resident said she was proud of the North Haven Police Department and felt that Officer Capozzo should be acknowledged.

A letter was received from Commissioner Larry Lazaroff thanking Officers O'Keeffe and Capozzo who helped him recently with an incident involving disruptive youths in the parking lot of the North Haven Shopping Center.

A letter was received from a resident thanking Officer Petrillo for his help while her son was involved in a motor vehicle accident, stating she felt Officer Petrillo went above and beyond his duties as a Police Officer

Chairman's Report:

Commissioner Lazaroff asked Chief McLoughlin about the status of the repairs to the lights in front of Police Headquarters. Chief advised the Board that the lights have been repaired.

Commissioner Lazaroff briefed the board on the progression of the drug program at the middle school and stated that on May 23, 24, and 25 a speaker, John Meile talked to the 8th grade students about the negative effects drugs have had on his life. Mr. Lazaroff said Miele's presentation was very informative and well received by students. Also, that he (Lazaroff) will continue to work with Sergeant Falcon and Principal Piazza throughout the summer to formalize the plan for next year's school calendar.

Further, Commissioner Lazaroff explained that North Haven is not excluded from drug abuse. He asked everyone to talk to their children, families, students and friends about drug abuse and to educate them on the dangers of using drugs.

Mr. Lazaroff also explained that he recently spoke with First Selectman Freda who assured him that he is working at a federal level to stop substance abuse along with other Mayors, and also Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Commissioner Lazaroff asked Chief McLoughlin if he would share the monthly Planning and Zoning requests at each Board meeting, stating they are very informative. Commissioners Spader and Calafiore agreed.

Commissioner Lazaroff concluded by reminding residents to use caution during the summer months as there is more pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle traffic on the roads.

Commissioner Calafiore commended Chief on the overtime budget line ending this fiscal year with a surplus of \$127000. Chief McLoughlin explained that sometimes it is a double edged sword. He explained that the Department has been fortunate to have had no long term injuries or major investigations that usually drain the overtime line. Chief also stated that he anticipated that the police union contract would be resolved, and usually that is where the budget comes up short. Chief said all remaining funds will go back to the town general fund.

Chiefs Report:

Chief acknowledged Detective Mark Guidone who recently received a certificate of recognition from the United States Attorney's office for his investigations with the DEA task force last year.

Budget:

Chief explained that the Police Department budget will be at a 2% surplus at the end of this fiscal year.

Patrol

School Resource Officer (SRO) DiCocco has been reassigned to patrol which will help to offset overtime costs generated by summer vacations. Chief anticipates DiCocco to return as SRO in September.

Traffic:

Chief McLoughlin received a written request for the placement of a 25 mph speed limit sign on Hilltop Terrace. Chief explained that Hilltop Terrace is a cut through from Ridge Road to Dixwell Avenue, and based on a traffic study recently conducted, the average daily volume of vehicles travelling this road is roughly 199 cars per day. Further, the placement of a speed limit sign must be approved by the State DOT and he asked the Board if they would concur with his decision to place the 25mph speed limit sign. The Board agreed. Commissioner Spader made the motion to install a 25mph speed limit sign on Hilltop Terrace. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

The national Click it or Ticket enforcement was conducted and 41 citations were issued. Sergeant Bob DePalma reported that based on a recent survey, North Haven was 1 ½ half percent above the National average for seat belt compliance.

Commissioner Lazaroff questioned why it takes funding or an objective for seat belt or cell phone awareness to increase the number of tickets given out. Chief McLoughlin explained that these are specific details designed for one violation only. Officers who participate strictly do the one enforcement, and are not taking regular calls for service such as alarms, accidents and other complaints.

Chief reported that the State DOT approved the Board's request for "No Thru Trucks" traffic on Pool Road and Blakeslee Avenue.

Chief said the State DOT's installation of rumble strips on Basset Road is on hold due to the likeliness that the road will need resurfacing in the near future. The placement of rumble strips on Hartford Turnpike is still on schedule.

Regarding the Planning and Zoning requests, Chief said there is nothing that appears to need the Board's approval tonight.

The first item is Yaccarinos Garage request has been withdrawn from Planning and Zoning.

Another withdrawal is a proposed insurance company on the corner of Whitney Avenue and Collett Street. The town is requesting more information from the developer.

Crossroads Medical Center is requesting a change in zoning regarding the property behind Jeff's Power Equipment on State Street.

Chick-fil-A on Universal Drive is looking to modify the proposed parking lot. There are no issues with traffic; this is a shrubbery placement request regarding the height requirements.

A business located at 85 Sackett Point Road has requested to add more office space. There are no traffic issues with this.

The proposed Gengras Volvo dealership on Washington Avenue should not be a major traffic generator, and since there will be less than 200 cars on site, the Town engineers say it does not need to be sent to the DOT.

Professional Standards/Training:

Chief McLoughlin reported that the hours of the Records division have been modified due to a staffing shortage. Currently the Records Division is only open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Chief explained he is anticipating a new hire and at that time the Records Division will resume its regular hours of Monday through Friday, 8:30a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Chief McLoughlin explained that as of July 1, 2016, POST will now charge \$2000 for each Police recruit that is enrolled. This rate went up from \$1500.

Another Public Act to take effect on July 1st 2016 is that if any Police Department laterally hires an officer from another Police agency within two years of their initial hire, said Department will be required to reimburse the other agency for all benefits, salaries and training costs.

Chief reported that the Department accreditation process is moving forward and he hopes to be ready for the first tier assessment by this fall. At that time, an outside agency will complete a review to establish if the Department is ready to be accredited at tier one.

In response to Commissioner Lazaroffs question of fore-seeing any issues with the accreditation process the Chief said they are on the right path and he is confident that the Department will do well. The Chief said all operating procedures are being updated to contemporary standards and he asked the Board to review the Police Commissions existing rules and regulations to see if anything needs to be fine-tuned, changed or updated.

The new 911 system was installed on June 14th. This system has a more accurate GPS locator; it also increases and simplifies transfers. At the same time, the Department installed an air conditioner unit in the utility room to keep the temperature consistent to protect the equipment/electronics. The State was insistent that the Department install this unit. The unit was purchased last year.

Investigative Services Division:

ISD has been very busy assisting with overdoses. North Haven had two overdoses from January to May 29th and from May 29th through June 24th, there have been 7 overdoses.

Investigators have identified two persons responsible for the sale of narcotics related to a few of these overdoses and have prepared two arrest warrants. One May overdose resulted in a fatality and is now being investigated by the DEA.

The Med Return collection box that was installed three weeks ago in the Police Department lobby has been emptied, and 22 pounds of drugs were received. Chief asks anyone returning needles, to please be sure they are capped.

Chief explained the Department is continuing to work with other towns and the DEA regarding the fentanyl problem.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Officer Hannon has asked for scholarship consideration for two college classes. Commissioner Spader made the motion to grant the request. Commissioner Calafiore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chief reported he has nothing for executive session.

With nothing more to report, Commissioner Lazaroff asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 7:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Lazaroff, Secretary

Minutes by M. Claflin